

# *The French Revolution*

*"Radical" Phase:*

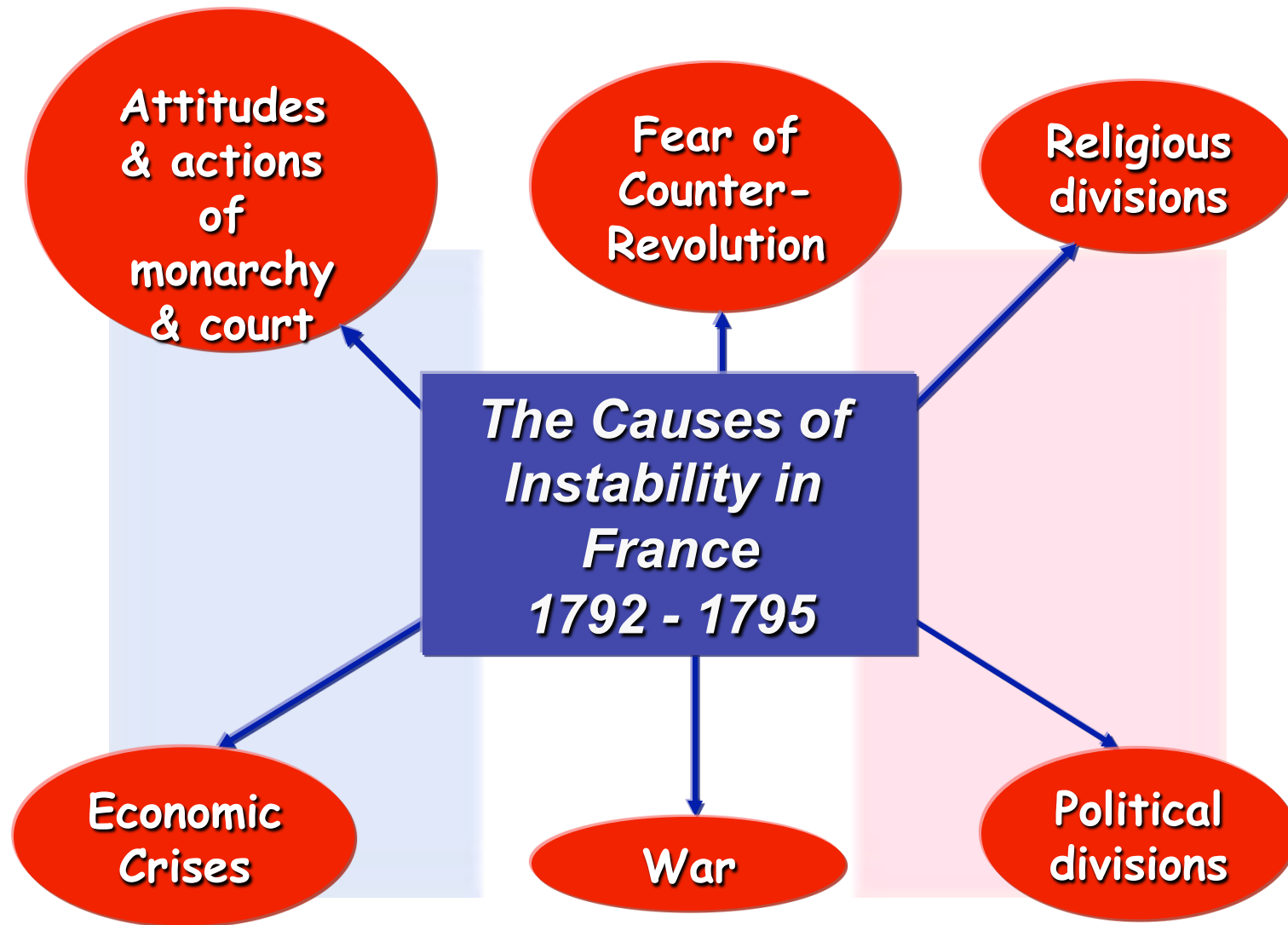


*1793-1794*

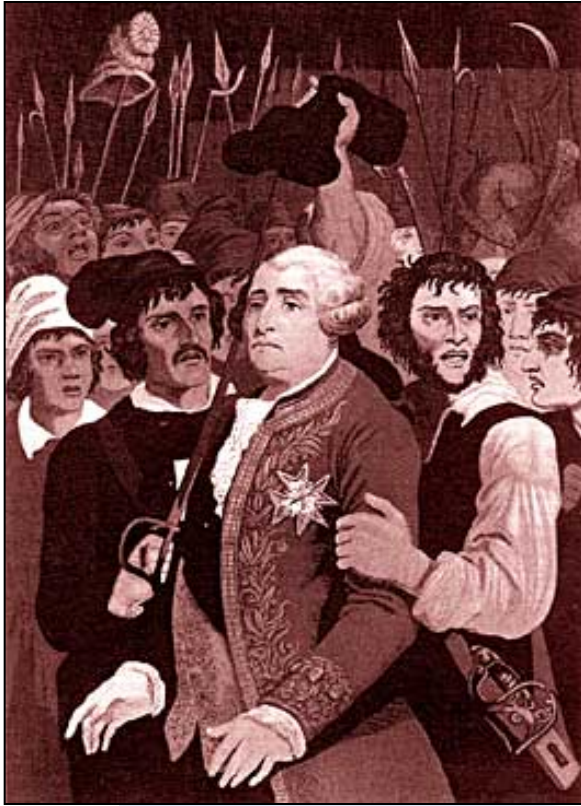


# The “Second” French Revolution

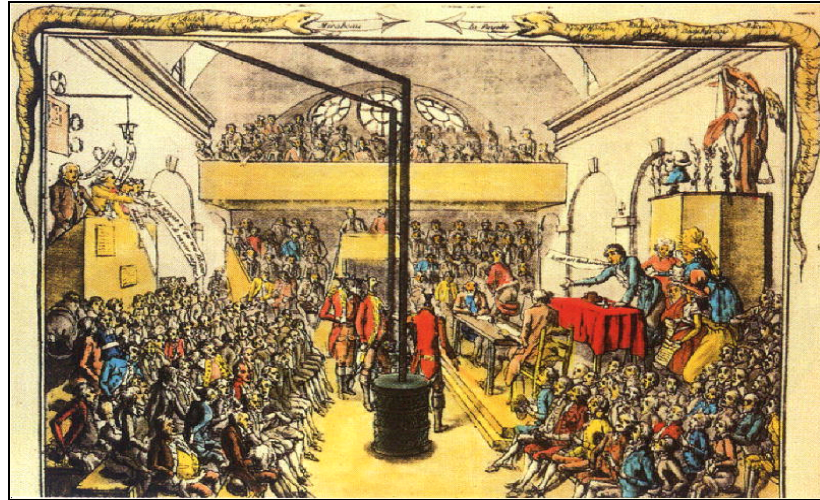
- 💣 The National Convention:
  - Girondin Rule: 1792-1793
  - Jacobin Rule: 1793-1794  
[“Reign of Terror”]
  - Thermidorian Reaction: 1794-1795
- 💣 The Directory → 1795-1799



# The Jacobins



Jacobin Meeting House



- 💣 They held their meetings in the library of a former Jacobin monastery in Paris.
- 💣 Started as a debating society.
- 💣 Membership mostly middle class.
- 💣 Created a vast network of clubs.

# The *Sans-Culottes*: *The Parisian Working Class*

- 💣 Small shopkeepers.
- 💣 Tradesmen.
- 💣 Artisans.



They shared many of the  
ideals of their middle  
class representatives in  
government!

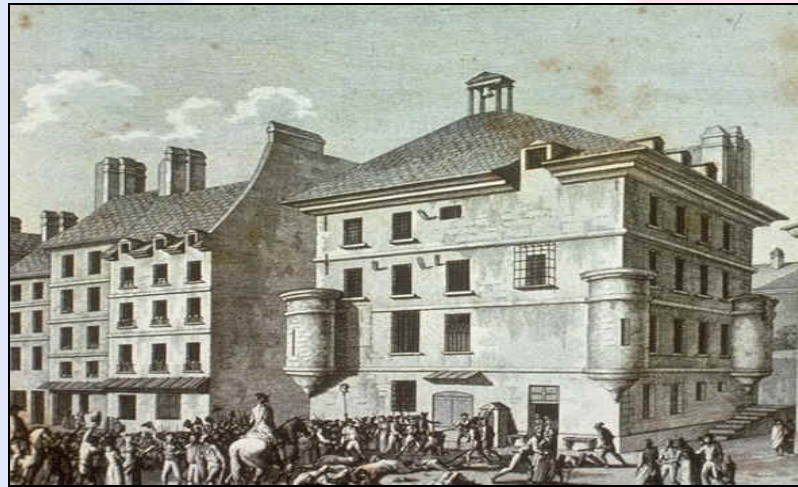


# The Sans-Culottes



Depicted as Savages by a British Cartoonist.

# The September Massacres, 1792 (The dark side of the Revolution!)



- 💣 Rumors that the anti-revolutionary political prisoners were plotting to break out & attack from the rear the armies defending France, while the Prussians attacked from the front.
- 💣 *Buveurs de sang* ["drinkers of blood."] → over 1000 killed!
- 💣 It discredited the Revolution among its remaining sympathizers abroad.

# The National Convention (September, 1792)

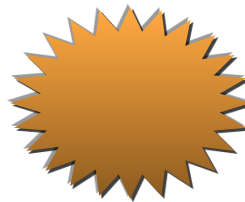
- 💣 Its first act was the formal abolition of the monarchy on **September 22, 1792.**
- 💣 **France is now a Republic**
  - The **Year I** of the French Republic.
- 💣 **The Decree of Fraternity**
  - it offered French assistance to any subject peoples who wished to overthrow their governments.

*When France sneezes,  
all of Europe catches cold!*

# The Politics of the National Convention (1792-1795)

Montagnards

- ★ Power base in Paris.
- ★ Main support from the *sans-culottes*.
- ★ Would adopt extreme measures to achieve their goals.
- ★ Saw Paris as the center of the Revolution.
- ★ More centralized [in Paris] approach to government.



Girondists

- ★ Power base in the provinces.
- ★ Feared the influence of the *sans-culottes*.
- ★ Feared the dominance of Paris in national politics.
- ★ Supported more national government centralization [federalism].

# The “Purifying” Pot of the Jacobin

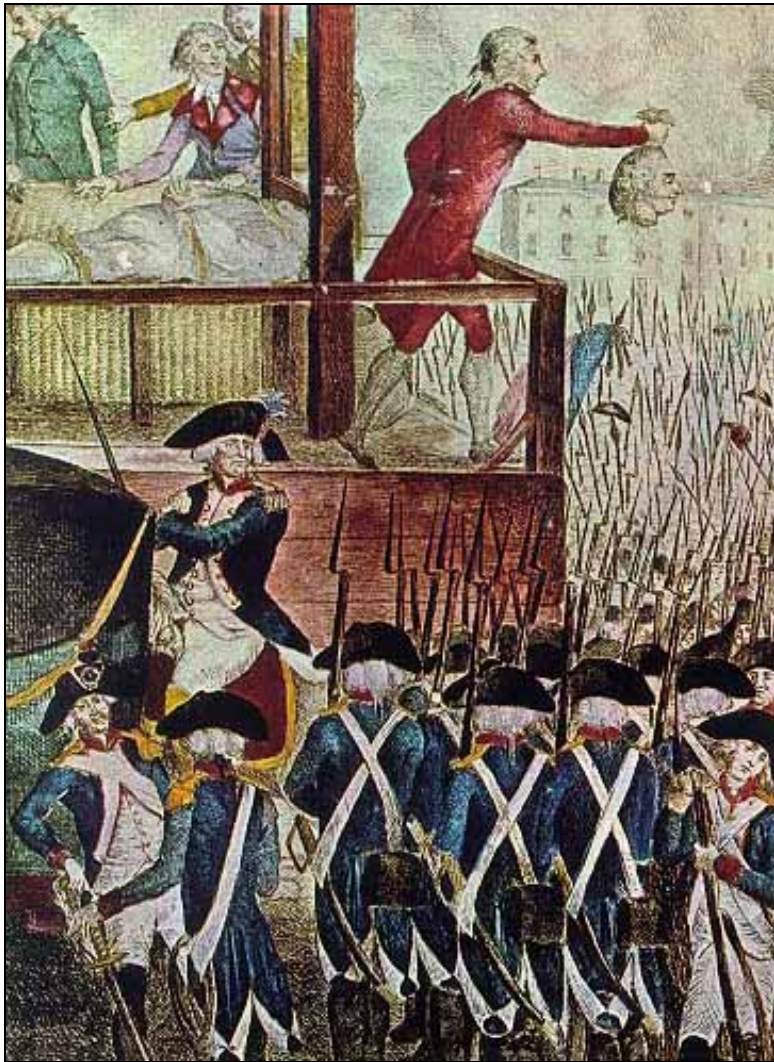


# Louis XVI as a Pig



- c For the Montagnards, the king was a traitor.
- c The Girondins felt that the Revolution had gone far enough and didn't want to execute the king [maybe exile him].

# Louis XVI' s Head (January 21, 1793)



The trial of the king was hastened by the discovery in a secret cupboard in the Tuileries of a cache of documents.

c They proved conclusively Louis' knowledge and encouragement of foreign intervention.

c The National Convention voted **387 to 334** to execute the monarchs.

# The Death of “Citizen” Louis Capet

*Matter for reflection  
for the crowned  
jugglers.*

*So impure blood  
doesn't soil our land!*



# Marie Antoinette as a Serpent



The “Widow Capet”

# Marie Antoinette on the Way to the Guillotine



# Marie Antoinette Died in October, 1793



# Attempts to Control the Growing Crisis

1. **Revolutionary Tribunal in Paris** → try suspected counter-revolutionaries.

**A. Representatives-on-Mission**

- e sent to the provinces & to the army.
- e had wide powers to oversee conscription.

**B. Watch Committees [*comité de surveillance*]**

- e keep an eye on foreigners & suspects.

C. Sanctioned the trial & execution of rebels and émigrés, should they ever return to France.

# Attempts to Control the Growing Crisis

2. The printing of more *assignats* to pay for the war.
3. **Committee of Public Safety [CPS]**
  - e to oversee and speed up the work of the government during this crisis.
4. **Committee of General Security [CGS]**
  - e responsible for the pursuit of counter-revolutionaries, the treatment of suspects, & other internal security matters.

# Committee for Public Safety



- 💣 Revolutionary Tribunals.
- 💣 300,000 arrested.
- 💣 16,000 - 50,000 executed.

# Maximillian Robespierre (1758 – 1794)



# Georges Jacques Danton

(1759 – 1794)-1<sup>st</sup> President of the Committee on  
Public Safety-Wanted overthrow of Monarchy-  
would be executed during Reign of Terror-thought  
R of T was wrong



# Jean-Paul Marat

(1744 – 1793)



# **“The Death of Marat”**

**by Jacques Louis David,**  
**1793**



# JEAN PAUL MARAT

- One of the leaders of the Montagnards, the radical faction ascendant in French politics during the Reign of Terror
- Corday was from a minor Girondin family who blamed him for the September Massacres
- She gained entrance to Marat's rooms with a note promising details of a counter-revolutionary ring in Caen.
- Marat suffered from a skin condition that caused him to spend much of his time in his bathtub; he would often work there.
- Corday fatally stabbed Marat, though she did not attempt to flee. She was later tried and executed for the murder.

# The Assassination of Marat by Charlotte Corday, 1793



# The Assassination of Marat by Charlotte Corday



Paul Jacques  
Aimee  
Baudry, 19<sup>c</sup>

[A Romantic  
View]

# The *Levee en Masse*:

## An Entire Nation at Arms! – 500,000 Soldiers



An army based on merit, not birth!

# Legislation Passed by the National Convention

## 1. Law of General Maximum

- September 5, 1793.
- Limited prices of grain & other essentials to 1/3 above the 1790 prices & wages to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1790 figures.
- Prices would be strictly enforced.
- Hoarders rooted out and punished.
- Food supplies would be secured by the army!

## 2. Law of Suspects

- e September 17, 1793.
- e This law was so widely drawn that almost anyone not expressing enthusiastic support for the republic could be placed under arrest!

# The Reign of Terror

*Terror is nothing other than justice, prompt, severe, inflexible.* -- Robespierre

*Let terror be the order of the day!*

- c The Revolutionary Tribunal of Paris alone executed 2,639 victims in 15 months.
- c The total number of victims nationwide was over 20,000!

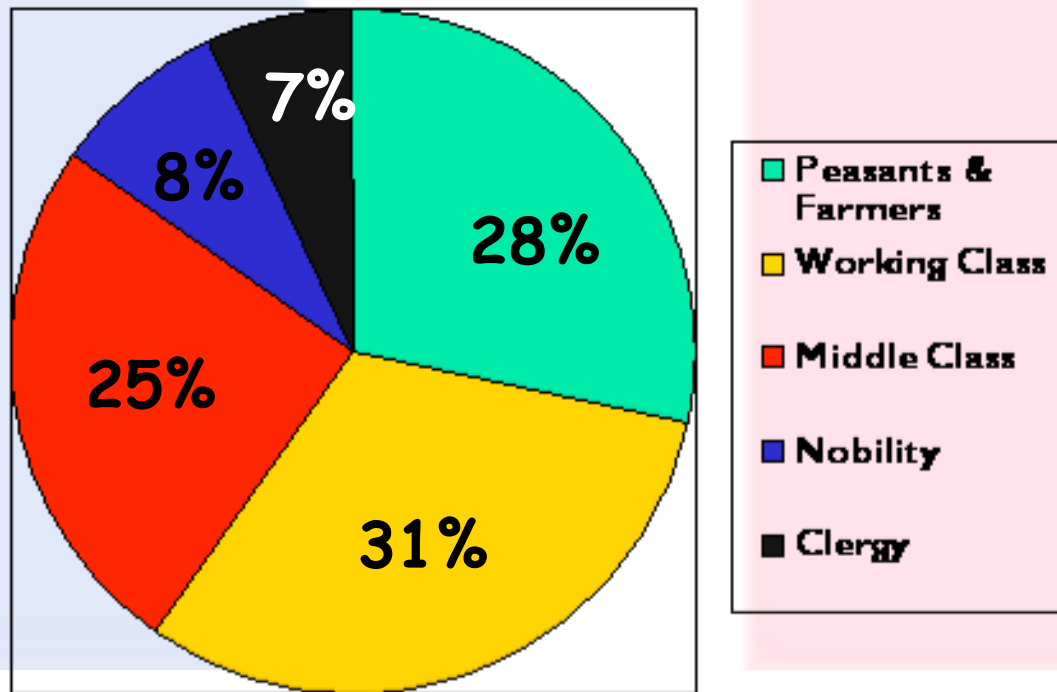




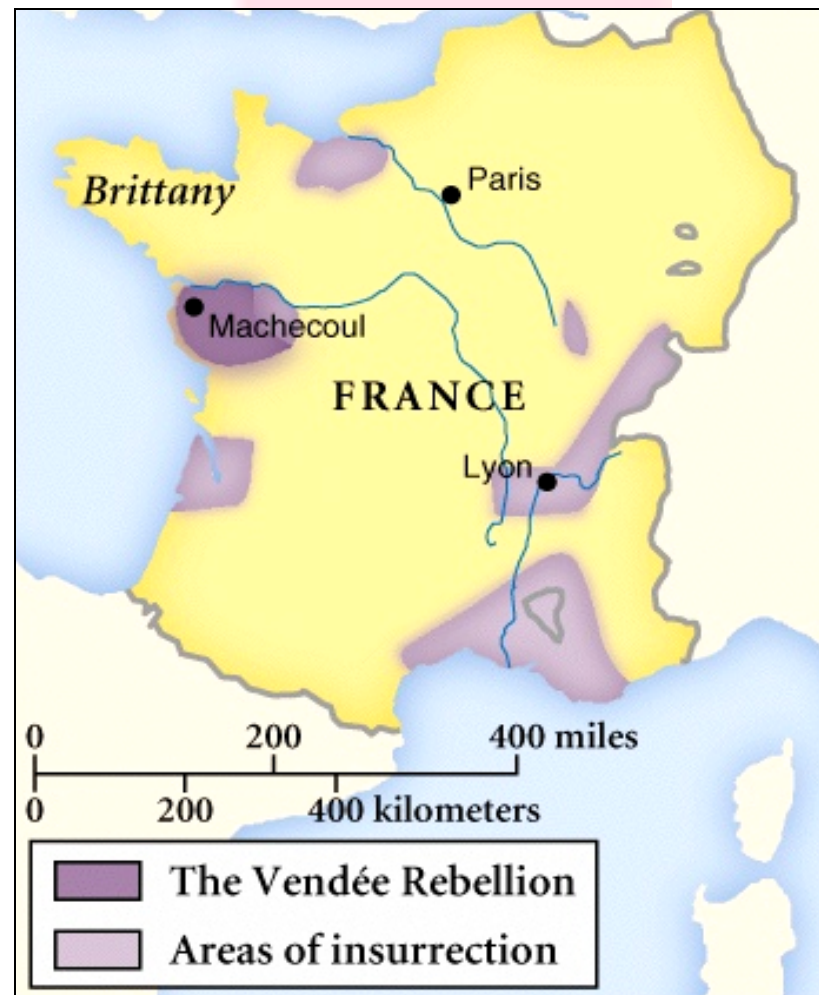
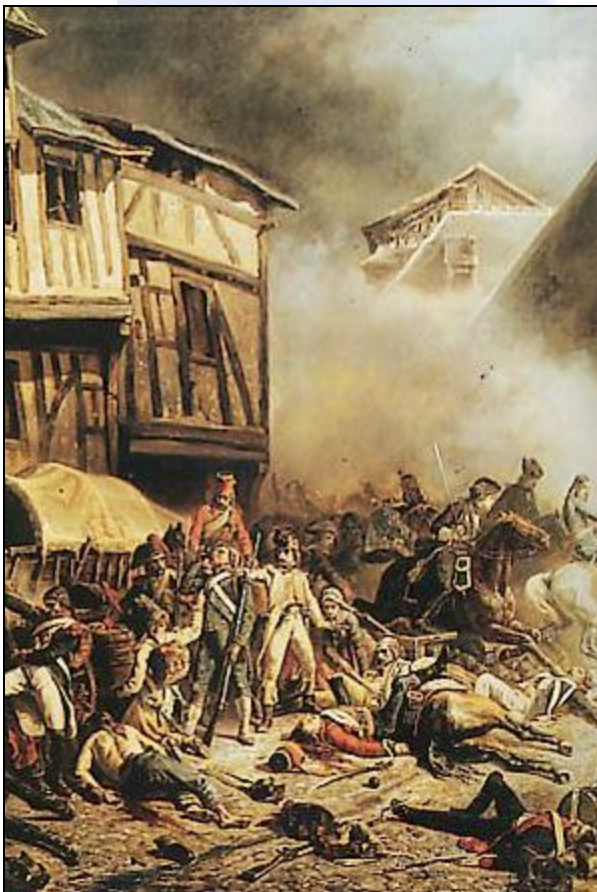
# **The Guillotine: An “Enlightenment Tool”?**

**Oh, thou charming guillotine,  
You shorten kings and queens;  
By your influence divine,  
We have re-conquered our rights.  
Come to aid of the Country  
And let your superb instrument  
Become forever permanent  
To destroy the impious sect.  
Sharpen your razor for Pitt and his agents  
Fill your divine sack with heads of  
tyrants.**

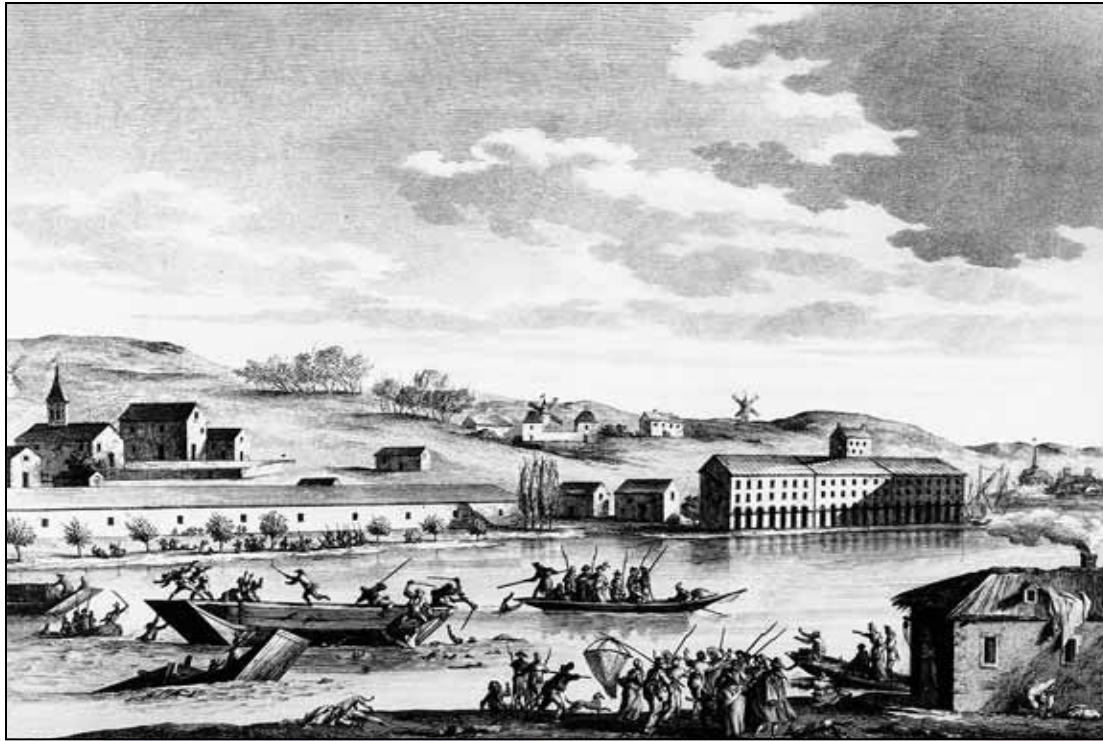
# Different Social Classes Executed



# War of Resistance to the Revolution: The Vendée Revolt, 1793



# Vendee Revolt, 1793



Drowning the Traitors!



Vendee  
Symbol:  
*For God &  
the King!*

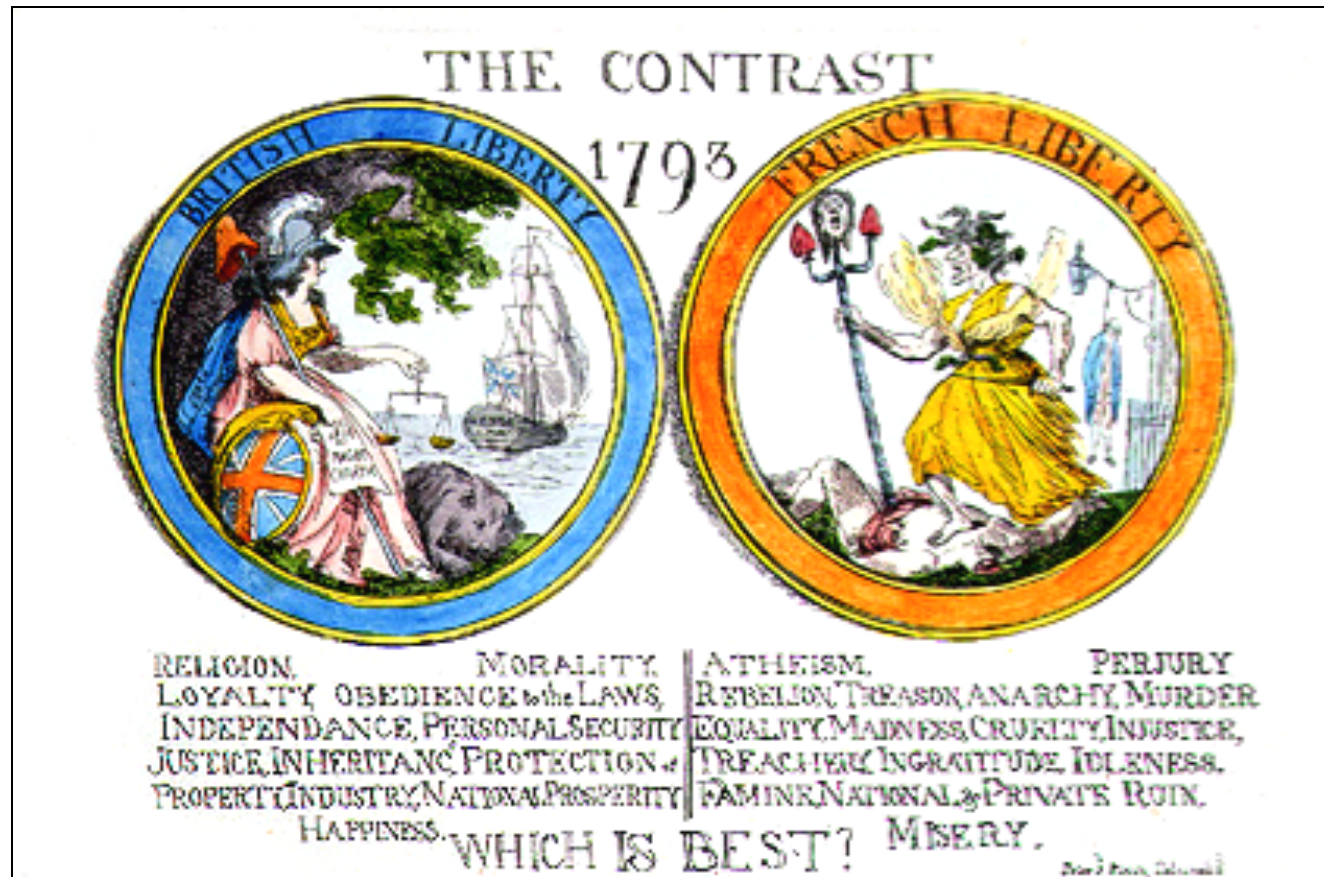
# Why was there a Revolt in the *Vendee*?

1. The need for 300,000 French troops for the war effort.
2. Rural peasantry still highly taxed.
3. Resentment of the Civil Constitution the Clergy.
4. Peasants had failed to benefit from the sale of church lands.

## TARGETS:

Local government officials  
National Guardsmen  
Jurying priests

# Political Propaganda



# Religious Terror: De-Christianization (1793-1794)

- 💣 The Catholic Church was linked with real or potential counter-revolution.
- 💣 Religion was associated with the *Ancien Régime* and superstitious practices.
- 💣 Very popular among the *sans-culottes*.
- 💣 Therefore, religion had no place in a rational, secular republic!

# The De-Christianization Program

## 1. The adoption of a new Republican Calendar:

- e abolished Sundays & religious holidays.
- e months named after seasonal features.
- e 7-day weeks replaced by 10-day decades.
- e the yearly calendar was dated from the creation of the Republic [Sept. 22, 1792]



The Convention symbolically divorced the state from the Church!!

# A Republican Calendar



# The New Republican Calendar

<u>New Name</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Time Period</u>
Vendemaire	Vintage	September 22 - October 21
Brumaire	Fog	October 22 - November 20
Frimaire	Frost	November 21 - December 20
Nivose	Snow	December 21 - January 19
Pluviose	Rain	January 20 - February 18
Ventose	Wind	February 19 - March 20
Germinal	Budding	March 21 - April 19
Floreale	Flowers	April 20 - May 19
Prairial	Meadow	May 20 - June 18
Messidor	Harvest	June 19 - July 18
Thermidor	Heat	July 19 - August 17
Fructidor	Fruit	August 18 - September 21

# A New Republican Calendar

I	1792 - 1793
II	1793 - 1794
III	1794 - 1795
IV	1795 - 1796
V	1796 - 1797
VI	1797 - 1798
VII	1798 - 1799
VIII	1799 - 1800
IX	1800 - 1801
X	1801 - 1802
XI	1802 - 1803
XII	1803 - 1804
XIII	1804 - 1805
XIV	1805

The Gregorian System returned in 1806.

# The De-Christianization Program

2. The public exercise of religion was banned.
3. The Paris Commune supported the:
  - e destruction of religious & royal statues.
  - e ban on clerical dress.
  - e encouragement of the clergy to give up their vocations.
4. The Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris was turned into the “**Temple of Reason.**”
5. The deportation of priests denounced by six citizens.

# The “Temple of Reason” was Notre Dame



*Come, holy Liberty, inhabit this temple,  
Become the goddess of the French people.*

# The Festival of Supreme



A new secular holiday

# Backlash to the De-Christianization Program

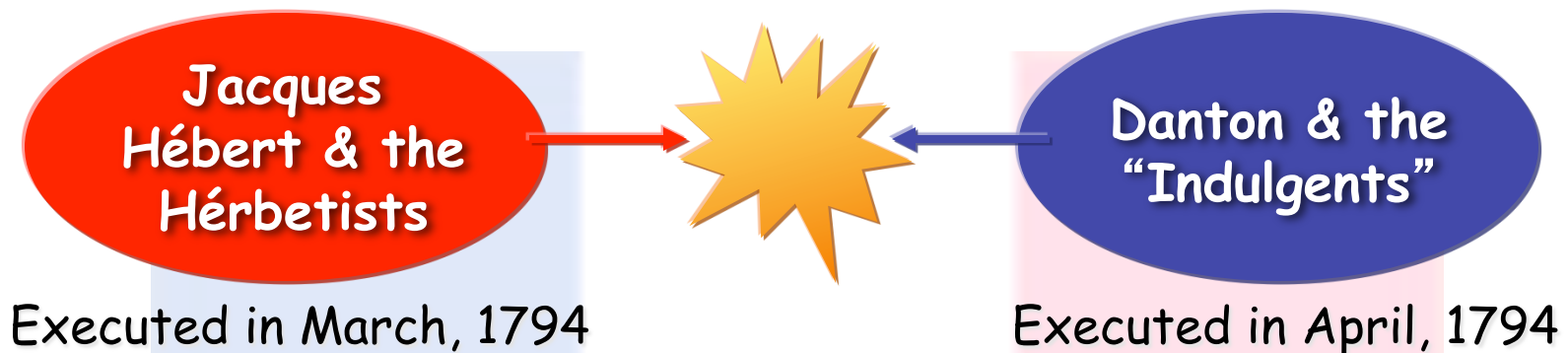
- 💣 It alienated most of the population (especially in the rural areas).
- 💣 Robespierre never supported it.
  - he persuaded the Convention to reaffirm the principle of religious toleration.
- 💣 Decree on the “**Liberty of Cults**” was passed
  - December 6, 1793.
  - BUT, it had little practical effect!



# The Radical's Arms:

No God!  
No Religion!  
No King!  
No Constitution!

# The Terror Intensified: March to July, 1794



- Ô **Law of 22 Prairial** [June 10, 1794].
  - Trials were now limited to deciding only on liberty OR death, with defendants having no rights.
  - Were you an **"enemy of the people?"** (the law was so broadly written that almost anyone could fall within its definition!)
- Ô 1,500 executed between June & July.

# French Victory at Fleurus



- ★ June 26, 1794.
- ★ France defeated Austria.
- ★ This opened the way to the reoccupation of Belgium!

# The “Thermidorean Reaction,” 1794

P July 26 → Robespierre gives a speech illustrating new plots & conspiracies.

- he alienated members of the CPS & CGS.
- many felt threatened by his implications.

P July 27 → the Convention arrests Robespierre.

P July 28 → Robespierre is tried & guillotined!

# The Arrest of Robespierre



# The Revolution Consumes Its Own Children!



Danton Awaits  
Execution, 1793



Robespierre Lies Wounded  
Before the Revolutionary  
Tribunal that will order him  
to be guillotined, 1794.

# The “Cultural Revolution” Brought About by the Convention

- 💣 It was premised upon Enlightenment principles of rationality.
- 💣 The metric system of weights and measures
  - Was defined by the French Academy of Sciences in 1791 and enforced in 1793.
  - It replaced weights and measures that had their origins in the Middle Ages.
- 💣 The abolition of slavery within France in 1791 and throughout the French colonies in 1794.
- 💣 The Convention legalized divorce and enacted shared inheritance laws [even for illegitimate offspring] in an attempt to eradicate inequalities.

# Bibliographic Resources

★ “Hist210—Europe in the Age of Revolutions.”

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/history/courses/europe1/chron/rch5.htm>

★ “Liberty, Fraternity, Equality: Exploring the French Revolution.”

<http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/>

★ Matthews, Andrew. *Revolution and Reaction: Europe, 1789-1849*. Cambridge University Press, 2001.

★ “The Napoleonic Guide.”

<http://www.napoleonguide.com/index.htm>



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